

in this extraordinary opportunity to say a few words about our leader, Senator BOB DOLE, and his announcement today of his resignation.

I was there, along with Mrs. Dole and BOB DOLE's daughter. I think all Senators—all 53—there was not a dry eye in the house when BOB DOLE announced his transition from majority leader, relinquishing the office that he loves so dearly. Basically, he laid out for us an all-or-nothing campaign. I think it took a great deal of courage. It was a bold action, and one that indicated, clearly, to those of us who were privileged to be there, an expression of love for this body that he holds so dearly.

I think, too, he cleared the air on the issue of some of the partisanship that we have in this body. I think it is fair to say no longer can some on the other side of the aisle use the excuse of his candidacy and majority leader as a reason for some of the issues that have not moved before this body. It is my opinion that we have lost a great leader in the Senate, but the country has gained a great opportunity to know BOB DOLE as we know him.

Mr. President, over the next weeks and months BOB DOLE is going to be out in America taking his campaign to the American people. I think he is going to be laying out very clearly the differences between himself and President Clinton. He is going to provide, I think, mainstream conservatives and conservatism moral leadership and will be able to point out the differences between the big Government philosophy, which is currently emanating from the White House, and that of the best Government is the closest Government to the people and most responsive.

I have had an opportunity to know BOB DOLE over the 16 years I have been in this body. I first recognized him as a true American hero. He is one who has always put America first. When he was called to battle in World War II—and now, I think, as he leaves the leadership of the U.S. Senate—he certainly has shown sacrifice and what it takes basically to be President.

BOB DOLE has always been there when America has called him, and America is calling him today. He is a man of courage, strength of character, and patriotism. He is gracious.

He came to Alaska to campaign for me. He has been accommodating to me during my 16 years in this body. One of the things that I have always marveled at about BOB DOLE is his patience in trying to accommodate some 99 other egos that are relatively high from time to time. Some of us have encouraged that he discipline—like, perhaps, that which occurs in the 6th grade—those of us who occasionally fall off the turnip truck. But BOB has always maintained an evenhanded approach towards leadership, giving each one of us an opportunity to express ourselves regardless of how our feelings may be in conflict with his own. Instead of, in effect, chastising on occasions when leadership did not receive the support it was entitled to, BOB has always been above that and set, I think, an extraordinary example of what true leadership is all about. That is being subjected to the equivocation and the contradictions that we all have on various issues, but being able to hold fast and stand above it as tall as BOB DOLE has been and will be as he campaigns for the highest office in our country.

So where are we today? This Nation will now have the privilege of seeing and knowing the BOB DOLE that we have come to know and love and, in my own case, have been privileged to work with for the last 16 years. There is no question in my mind, Mr. President, that the electorate will soon be able to define the character of our two Presidential candidates and make the choice that is right for America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I do not believe I will ever look at the desk directly in front of me, or the podium on it, ever again without thinking of the Senator from Kansas. Senator DOLE is a living American hero. He is a Senator of the century. Whenever I have been around Senator DOLE, somehow I always felt that I was close to the heart and the soul of America. I used to introduce him that way. I still introduce him that way. You cannot miss it when you are near him.

I want to thank the other side. It was great seeing them standing behind this

great American Senator—Senator DASCHLE, Senator BRADLEY, Senator HARKIN, Senator KERREY, and others. I think it signaled what the entire Nation feels about this man.

I loved what Senator SIMPSON, his great friend from Wyoming, said. He said: Now America will get a chance to know Senator DOLE like his colleagues do. And I think they are going to make him President of the United States.

This has really been a magnificent day—difficult but magnificent. I think on our side we feel a little bit like a family sending off a son or daughter to work on a higher mission. I know that is how I feel.

I have enjoyed so much this evening listening to the remarks of his friends and colleagues. I join them in saying bon voyage, God bless, safe journey, and much success to the Senator from Kansas.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 585 REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that Executive Calendar No. 585 be rereferred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COVERDELL. I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 16, 1996.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:28 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 16, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 15, 1996:

THE JUDICIARY

CHRISTINA A. SNYDER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA VICE EDWARD RAFEEDIE, RETIRED.

THOMAS W. THRASH, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA VICE ROBERT L. VINING, JR., RETIRED.